

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 7 being independent. Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10 have been amended herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-10 recite allowable subject matter. Although minor changes have been made to several claims to improve their form, these changes have not been made for any reasons related to patentability. Claims 1-10 are believed to remain in condition for allowance.

The title has been amended as requested by the Examiner. Favorable consideration is requested.

The specification has been amended at page 11, line 8 to clarify that “Φ47” should have read --a diameter of 47 mm--. Such would have been clear to one of ordinary skill in the art. In addition, several other minor changes have been made in the specification to improve its form. Favorable consideration is requested.

The drawings were objected to, suggesting Fig. 9 should be labelled --Prior Art--. This drawing has been so corrected. Withdrawal of the drawing objection is requested.

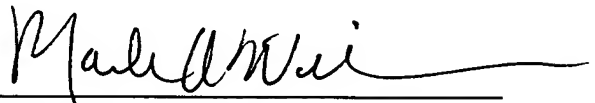
Claim 7 was objected to for a minor informality. Without conceding the propriety of this objection, Applicants have amended Claim 7 generally in the manner

suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 7 are requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by Claims 1-10 and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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